



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Natalia Odish

ROCHESTER HILLS WOMAN INDICTED

A Rochester Hills woman was indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit on charges of communicating a terrorism hoax, and making false statements to federal agents, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Named in the indictment was Natalia Odish, 32, of Rochester Hills, Michigan.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, FBI Special Agent in Charge.

The three-count indictment charges that Odish left a recorded telephone message at a British Petroleum Oil refinery in Oregon, Ohio, on March 8, 2005, in which she falsely stated that two specific employees there were "plotting some very bad terrorist activities towards the refinery." The defendant had falsely specified two employees of Middle Eastern descent as the alleged plotters. The indictment further alleges that when Odish was questioned by the FBI, she falsely denied that she had left the message.

"False reports of terrorism activity drain vital resources away from investigations of real threats, and therefore weaken the security of all. We will adopt an aggressive posture in prosecuting such hoaxes, particularly when false allegations are made that appear to target

members of a particular ethnic group,” United States Attorney Murphy said.

Daniel D. Roberts, FBI Special Agent in Charge said, “The FBI will continue to aggressively investigate allegations in which people falsely attempt to use the criminal justice system to violate the civil rights of others.”

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of the FBI.